

Minutes of Meeting  
Health Services Council  
Project Review Committee-I

DATE: 6 January 2009 TIME: 2:30 PM

LOCATION: Miriam Hospital

ATTENDANCE:

Committee-I: Present: Edward F. Almon, John W. Flynn, Wallace Gernt, Amy Lapierre, Thomas M. Madden, Esq., Robert J. Quigley, D.C., (Chair)

Excused: Victoria Almeida, Esq., (Vice Chair)

Not Present: Joseph V. Centofanti, M.D., Robert Ricci, Robert Whiteside

Committee-II: Present: Reverend David Shire (Secretary)

Staff: Valentina D. Adamova, MBA, Michael K. Dexter, MPA, Joseph G. Miller, Esq.

Public: None

1. Call to Order, Approval of Minutes, Conflict of Interest Forms and Extension for the Minutes Availability

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 PM. The Chair noted that conflict of interest forms are available to any member who may have a conflict. A motion was made, seconded and passed by a vote of three in favor with none opposed (3-0) that the availability of minutes for this meeting be extended beyond the time frame as provided for under the Open Meetings Act. Those members voting in favor were: Almon, Gernt, Quigley.

2. General Order of Business

The first item on the agenda was the site visit regarding the Change Order Request of **Miriam Hospital** [Lifespan Corporation] to the 27 October 2004 Certificate of Need to Construct Three Floors to House Medical/Surgical Nursing Units, Upgrade the Emergency Department, and Consolidate and Upgrade Diagnostic and Patient Treatment Areas.

Dr. Hittner, President of Miriam Hospital, lead the Committee on the tour of the hospital including the newly constructed third floor of the Baxt building housing single patient rooms, and other areas related to the change order request.

The applicant noted that a very preliminary estimate of the future cost of the three-story Patient Services building proposed to be resubmitted as part of a new CON is approximately \$70 million whereas the cost was originally estimated and approved as part of the 2004 CON for \$25 million.

Mr. Gernt questioned the applicant regarding reasons behind the increased utilization in ER use including whether patient could have been served in an alternative and less costly setting. Dr. Hittner stated that the only type of patient the hospital tracks are drug abuse patients. Ms. Lapierre noted that if this information is available for all patients then those patients could be connected with appropriate services. She inquired whether the applicant partners with community agencies. The applicant stated that they do. Ms. Lapierre stated that people should not come to the emergency room because it is the only service available. Dr. Hittner stated that this is a problem of access in the community.

Staff noted that the next meeting on this matter is scheduled for 20 January 2009. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Valentina D. Adamova, MBA  
Health Economics Specialist